

**SUPREME COURT
OF ILLINOIS**

**CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL
RECORDS**

- -

**FIVE-YEAR TRENDS AND
DATA**

SUPREME COURT CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL RECORDS

CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

A summary of case filings and dispositions in the Supreme Court of Illinois for the period 1997 through 2001 is presented in Table 1.

During 2001, filings in the supreme court totaled 3,145 an increase of .7 percent or 23 more cases than the 3,122 cases filed in 2000. The supreme court disposed of a total of 2,706 cases in 2001, a decrease of 546 cases from 2000 dispositions. The decrease may be substantially attributed to certain petitions for leave to appeal being held for resolution of various issues under the court's advisement. For example, there are a significant number of petitions that have raised Apprendi-related issues that are being considered by the supreme court. (See Apprendi v. New Jersey, 530 U.S. 466 (2000)).

In 2001 there were 2,264 cases filed on the general docket, which is the predominant docket, an increase of 326 cases, or 14.4 percent, from 2000 filings. There was a sharp rise in notices of appeal, as explained below, and 106 more petitions for leave to appeal filed in 2001.

A total of 615 miscellaneous record cases were filed in 2001. The miscellaneous record consists primarily of attorney matters, including name-change petitions, disciplinary cases, and bar admission motions. In 2001, approximately 359 name-change petitions and 61 motions for restoration to active status under Rule 759 were filed, a decrease of 221 Rule 759 cases from 2000 filings. The amendment of Rule 756(a)(7), effective November 1, 1999, requires that any attorney who petitions for restoration after December 31, 2000, will pay a sum equal to the annual registration fees that the attorney would have been required to pay for each full year after 1999 during which the attorney remained on Rule 770 inactive status without payment of a fee. Disciplinary matters account for 134 cases, and the remaining 61 cases consist of bar admission motions, rule amendment petitions, petitions concerning professional service corporations or limited liability companies under Rule 721, and certain other administrative matters.

In 2001, 266 miscellaneous docket cases were filed, an 86-case decrease from 2000. This docket consists of conviction-related cases filed by *pro se* prisoners. Typically, a matter is placed on the miscellaneous docket, as opposed to the general docket, when papers do not conform to the rules in one or more respects. This docket provides a forum for the incarcerated *pro se* litigant without compromising standard filing requirements.

Petitions for Leave to Appeal

In 2001, 1,881 petitions were filed, an increase of 106 cases from the 2000 filings on the leave to appeal docket, as represented in Table 2. The supreme court allowed 98 petitions, a 6 case increase over 2000, or 6.2 percent of the petitions acted upon.

As in the prior four years, more petitions were filed in people cases, but more civil petitions were allowed than people petitions.

Mandatory Appeals

As seen in Table 3, total capital case filings (imposition of death penalty and post-conviction) decreased by 10 cases in 2001 when 7 direct appeals from the imposition of the death sentence and 6 capital post-conviction appeals, which also are appealed straight to the supreme court, were filed. During the five-year period, direct appeal filings ranged from 7 to 11 cases annually and post-conviction appeals ranged from 6 to 26 cases annually.

The year 2001 saw 192 direct appeals from the circuit court under Rules 302(a) and 603 in cases in which a statute has been held invalid, a 170-case increase over 2000. The 2001 figure includes approximately 174 cases filed on notices of appeal from orders of the circuit court declaring unconstitutional, all or part of, Public Act 91-404 (sentencing enhancements for crimes committed with firearms).

No certificates of importance from the appellate court were filed in 2001. As shown in Table 3, only 3 such cases were docketed in the last five years, all in 1997.

Other Activity

In 2001, the supreme court filed 111 full opinions, disposing of 130 cases; 16 fewer opinions than the number filed in 2000. (Table 6).

The court ruled on 51 petitions for rehearing in decided cases, allowing 6, a five-year high (Table 7); entertained oral argument in 139 cases (Table 5); and considered over 2,351 motions on the general docket, including 134 original action motions under Rules 381, 382, and 383 (Table 1). In 2001, a total of 17 cases were filed under Rule 382, including 14 cases challenging the new legislative redistricting plan approved by the Legislative Redistricting Commission.

Attorney disciplinary activity (Table 8) in 2001 was concentrated on the miscellaneous record where the court disciplined 123 attorneys by order and suspended 11

attorneys on an interim basis by order. One petition for reinstatement to the roll of attorneys was allowed in 2001.

In 2001, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 3, the supreme court rules committee forwarded to the clerk of the court 8 matters to be placed upon the proposed rule docket, which spreads of record rule proposals and amendments being considered by the supreme court or its committees. Seventeen matters on the proposed rule docket were closed. In 2001, the court amended 33 Supreme Court Rules¹ and adopted 5 Supreme Court Rules², including rules pertaining to the appointment of associate judges and arbitrators, mediation programs, responsibilities of prosecutors, and examination qualifications, registration and fees for attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois. A group of 8 new and amended rules was filed on March 1, 2001, effective immediately or on March 1, 2002, generally concerning procedures in and the administration of capital cases, including creation of the Capital Litigation Trial Bar (Rule 714).

The supreme court, which is responsible for regulating the practice of law in the state, licensed 2,630 attorneys in 2001, an increase of 58 from the 2,572 licenses awarded in 2000. During the past five years, 12,986 lawyers were licensed, an average of 2,597 per year, which is a decrease of 21 from the five-year average reported in 2000.

¹Amended rules 39, 63, 70, 87, 94, 99, 212, 238, 284, 330, 341, 361(b), 381, 383, 411, 412, 529, 605, 660, 663, 701, 704, 705, 706, 708, 709, 711, 712, 713, 756, and Rules 3.8, and 8.4 (amended 3/01 and 7/01) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct

²Adopted rules 43, 99, 416, 417 and 714.

Table 1
Summary of Case Filings and Final Dispositions
Supreme Court of Illinois
1997 - 2001

Filings	Grand Total	Total General Docket	Direct Appeals by Right (a)	Certificates of Importance (b)	Direct Appeal by Permission (c)	Petitions for Leave to Appeal (d)	Original Action Motions (e)	Attorney Disc. Cases on General Docket	Other General Docket (f)	Total Misc. Record (g)	Total Misc. Docket (h)
1997	3591	2140	126	3	18	1848	115	0	30	1168	283
1998	3568(i)	2144(i)	176(i)	0	6	1831	109	1	21	1082	342
1999	3231	1948	42	0	5	1770	93	5	33	984	299
2000	3122	1938	45	0	6	1775	88	0	24	832	352
2001	3145(j)	2264(j)	205(j)	0	7	1881	134	1	36	615	266
Dispo- sitions											
1997	3557	2136	63	3	18	1844	99	1	108	1164	257
1998	3427	2045	81	3	6	1750	113	0	92	1076	306
1999	3524(i)	2157(i)	224(i)	0	5	1741	99	3	85	1031	336
2000	3252	2027	68	0	6	1772	82	5	94	870	355
2001	2706	1848	45	0	7	1559	131	0	106	610	248

(a) Appeals directly from the circuit court: Capital cases (Ill. Const. 1970, art. VI, § 4; Rule 603 appeals from imposition of death sentence and appeals in post-conviction proceedings under Rule 651) and statutes held invalid (Rules 302(a) and 603). (b) Certification of case by Appellate Court under Rule 316. (c) Rule 302(b) motions. (d) Dispositions do not include petitions allowed in a given year unless entire case disposed of in that same year. (e) Motions filed under Rule 381 (mandamus, prohibition, habeas corpus), Rule 382 (legislative redistricting), Rule 383 (supervisory authority). (f) Other dispositions include final disposition of cases in which discretionary review was granted in prior year(s). (g) The Miscellaneous Record consists primarily of attorney matters, including disciplinary cases, motions for restoration to active status (Rule 759), petitions to change name on roll of attorneys, and bar admission motions. Effective November 1, 1999, Rule 770 (voluntary transfer to inactive status) rescinded. (h) Cases are filed on the Miscellaneous Docket when papers tendered by pro se prisoners do not conform to Supreme Court Rules. (i) The 1998 figure includes approximately 120 cases filed on notices of appeal from orders of the circuit court declaring unconstitutional the statutory scheme of the Illinois Vehicle Code for summary suspension of driving privileges. In 1999, in view of *People v. Fisher*, 184 Ill. 2d 441 (1998), upholding summary suspension, approximately 184 cases were dismissed. (j) The 2001 figure includes approximately 174 cases filed on notices of appeal from orders of the circuit court declaring unconstitutional, all or part of, Public Act 91-404 (sentencing enhancements for crimes committed with firearms).

Table 2
Summary of Petitions for Leave to Appeal and/or Appeal as a Matter of Right
Under Rules 315/317 - General Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
1997 - 2001

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Allowed	(People)	(Civil)	Denied or Dismissed	Total Disposed	Percent Allowed (b)
1997	1848	(1068)	(780)	89	(31)	(58)	1776(a)	1844	4.8%
1998	1831	(1129)	(702)	83	(29)	(54)	1717(a)	1750	4.7%
1999	1770	(1106)	(664)	92	(34)	(58)	1639(a)	1741	5.3%
2000	1775	(1082)	(693)	92	(42)	(50)	1694(a)	1772	5.2%
2001	1881	(1196)	(685)	98	(42)	(56)	1491(a)	1559	6.2%

(a) Does not include petitions denied with supervisory orders. These are reflected in "total disposed".

(b) Relationship between petitions allowed and all petitions disposed, i.e., denied, dismissed, allowed.

Table 3
Mandatory Jurisdiction Appeals - General Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
1997 - 2001

	Total Filed	Capital		Statute Invalid		Certificate of Importance		Total Dis- posed	Capital		Statute Invalid		Certificate of Importance	
		Imposition of death sentence	Post- Con- viction	People	Civil	People	Civil		Imposi- tion of death sentence	Post- Conviction	People	Civil	People	Civil
1997	129	10	26	73	17	1	2	66	14	18	11	20	0	3
1998	176	11	26	134	5	0	0	84	21	11	14	35	1	2
1999	42	11	15	13	3	0	0	224	7	14	193	10	0	0
2000	45	9	14	6	16	0	0	68	18	30	15	5	0	0
2001	205	7	6	188	4	0	0	45	7	15	12	11	0	0

Table 4
General Docket
People and Civil Cases
Supreme Court of Illinois
1997 - 2001

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Disposed	(People)	(Civil)
1997	2140	1226	914	2136	1202	934
1998	2144	1334	810	2045	1123	922
1999	1948	1168	780	2157	1404	753
2000	1938	1134	804	2027	1222	805
2001	2264	1426	838	1848	1038	810

Table 5
Summary of the Call of the Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
1997 - 2001

	Cases Submitted	(People)	(Civil)
1997	126(a)	(64)	(62)
1998	118(b)	(67)	(51)
1999	118	(69)	(49)
2000	114(c)	(70)	(44)
2001	149(d)	(67)	(82)

Cases submitted on briefs without oral argument:(a)1; (b)4; (c)2; (d)10,
including 8 legislative redistricting cases.

Table 6
Summary of Opinions
Supreme Court of Illinois
1997 - 2001

	Total Filed (a)	(People)	(Civil)	Disposing of Cases on the Merits
1997	118(a)	(62)	(56)	144(a)
1998	133	(64)	(69)	158
1999	91(b)	(49)	(42)	104(b)
2000	127(c)	(84)	(43)	144(c)
2001	111	(59)	(52)	130

(a) Does not include 3 Summary Orders disposing of 3 cases.

(b) Does not include 1 case dismissed by Per Curiam order.

(c) Does not include 1 consolidated case dismissed by order.

Table 7
Summary of Rehearings
Supreme Court of Illinois
1997 - 2001

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Allowed (a)	(People)	(Civil)
1997	52	(31)	(21)	0	(0)	(0)
1998	47	(23)	(24)	0	(0)	(0)
1999	42	(23)	(19)	0	(0)	(0)
2000	51	(36)	(15)	2	(1)	(1)
2001	51	(30)	(21)	6	(2)	(4)

(a) Petitions not allowed are denied or, occasionally, dismissed or withdrawn on motion.

Table 8

Attorney Disciplinary Cases
Supreme Court of Illinois
 (Calendar Year 2001)

Discipline Imposed by Order	Dispositions
Rule 753 proceedings on recommendation of Hearing or Review Boards of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission	45
Rule 762(a) Voluntary disbarment	16
Rule 762(b) Discipline on consent	38
Rule 763 Reciprocal discipline	24
Total	123

Discipline by Opinion	0
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Interim Suspension orders	
Rule 761	5
Rule 774	6
Total	11

Reinstatement to Roll of Attorneys	
Petition Allowed 1	1
Petition Denied 0	

Total Dispositions	135
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Reinstatement Petitions	Reprimand	Censure	Interim Suspension	Probationary Suspension	Suspension	Disbarment	Total Dispositions
1	3	12(a)	11	14	68	26	135

(a) Includes two Rule 763 reciprocal discipline cases where censure imposed with probation in foreign jurisdictions.

Figure 1
Filings

1997-2001

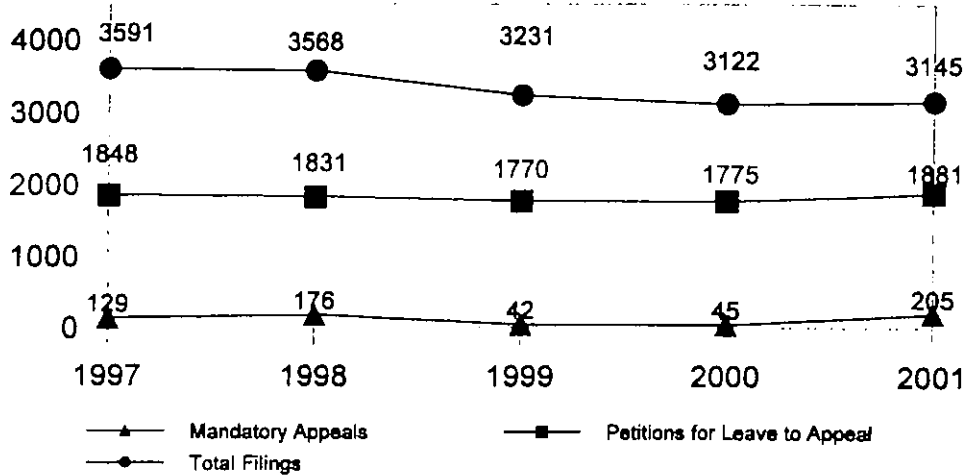


Figure 2
***Petitions for Leave to Appeal Filed
as a Percent of Appeals
Decided by Appellate Court Opinion or Rule 23 Order***
1997-2001

